THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

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Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, July 4th, 3 p.m.—Hyde Park—Miss Fraser Smith, Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall — Miss Elsa Myers, Mrs. Schlette. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst (Chair.)
Monday, July 5th, 8 p.m.—Lesbia Road—Miss Manicom and others.
8 p.m.—"Peacock"—Mr. Everett.
8 p.m.—Dock Gates—Mrs. Drake.
Tuesday, July 6th, 3 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mrs. Cyon, Miss Manicom.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Scurr.
8 p.m. — Poplar Women's Hall — Mrs. Mc. Leod.
8 p.m.—Salmon Lane—Miss Peek.
Wednesday, July 7th, 8 p.m.—Ford Road—Miss Mary Phillips.
8 p.m.—Chrisp Street—Mr. Everett, Mrs. Drake.
8.30 p.m.—Kempshead Road Hall, Old Kent Rd—Miss Balchin and others.
Thursday, July 8th, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Rev. C. Isherwood, Mrs. Parsons.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mrs. Schlette.
8 p.m.—Oakley Place, Old Kent Road—Miss Balchin and others.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
Friday, July 9th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Piggott Street—Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Beckton Road—Miss Somers.
Sunday, July 11th, 3.30 p.m.—Victoria Park Miss Sennett and others.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall—Miss Somers, Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m. — Poplar Women's Hall — Miss Houghton, Miss S. Pankhurst.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 8 to 10 p.m., Wednesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays and Mondays 8 to 10. p.m.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The season of infantile diarrhœa will soon be upon us, when babies, especially babies of necessitous mothers, who are themselves undernourished, and cannot afford to buy good fresh milk, will be falling dangerously ill. The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, will become more frequent and more urgent as the summer advances. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

Will you send us a maternity outfit?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS.

High prices increase the need for our restaurants. At the same time the high prices make it harder and harder for us to pay our bills. Will you help?

OUR FACTORY.

Always buy your toys and shoes from the E.L.F.S., because we pay a living wage. Latest price lists may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Our four clothing stalls, where women can buy useful garments for their families for a few pence, are much appreciated. Our stock of clothing is getting low. Will friends send us some more?

Bow members are reminded that the paper stall is out Fridays and Saturdays in the Roman Road, and that Miss Bailey, who is in charge of the stall, is anxious for more helpers to volunteer.

Answer our SOS call for the East End Babies

By sending some money for our Milk Fund, Day Nursery, Restaurants and Clinics.

A VISIT TO THE E.L.F.S. CRECHE.

Since I heard Miss Sylvia Pankhurst speak in Hyde Park a short time ago, I have been trying to get some idea of all the good the East London Federation of the Suffragettes is doing. To-day I visited their nursery and mother and infant clinic in Old Ford Road. It was the the doctor's visiting day, too, so the first sight that caught my eye was a row of empty perambulators. A little further in I could see mothers with their babies who came for advice. I had never seen an East End baby, by that I mean the child of an overworked, ill-fed woman. I saw a few to-day and I fear I shall never forget it! All the agony and want of the parents seemed imprinted on the child's countenance, and its limbs were just like blades of grass, so thin and scraggy—all the care possible would hardly keep that infant alive, and yet were it not for the care of the E.L.F.S. I do not suppose anyone would trouble much what became of it.!

A bright, fresh coloured young nurse, brought me to more cheerful surroundings. The children who are brought in the morning to stay have a grand spacious, light and airy nursery, everything scrupulously clean. Dainty little cots where the babies were sleeping, others were lying on stretchers, all apparently tired after their morning airing in the park. One of the windows opened out on the roof. "We want to make that a real open-air nursery," the nurse remarked wistfully, "if we can get the necessary funds."

Just then a message came that a photographer wished to photo some babies, the nurse chose those that were awake, one ruddy, golden-haired boy especially took my fancy. We took them to the bath-room, where each child is bathed on its arrival in the morning, unless its mother has already done so; "for we don't wish the mothers to lose their interest in their babies," nurse said. Their kit bags all hang there, neatness and order prevails; the bath is a most elaborate piece of furniture and shows that neither expense nor trouble have been spared in getting all that is needed for the health and welfare of these babies.

Beside the visitors' book is a box for donations for the Babies' Milk Fund—so this admirable institution is dependent on donors, I thought, strange that no State grant should help such a good work, so necessary at all times; but more than ever now.

A VISITOR.

SOME OF OUR BABIES IN THE WOMEN'S MAY DAY PROCESSION.

DEAR EDITOR,—A woman came to see our E.L.F.S. doctor at 20 Railway Street, Poplar, on account of her baby aged nine months not being well. The doctor said baby must be weaned, as the mother's milk was not satisfying it, and ordered cow's milk instead. This the mother really could not afford to buy, and we are allowing a pint daily. This baby is one of seven children, their ages being ten, nine, eight, seven, four and three years, and the baby mentioned, nine months.

The father is in the Marines. He has been in the Army 16 years, and was called up when War broke out. The mother's allowance is 27s. 6d. weekly, and I cannot quite understand how it is made up.

I think the Government expect the husband to send some of *his* money on to the wife, but she says that he needs the money himself for necessaries. This is the way the household money is spent:—

	s.	d.
4 lbs. Sugar at 3½d.	1	1
1 lb. Tea	1	8
2 tins Milk at 5d.	0	10
2 tins Cocoa at 2d.	0	4
3½ lbs. Margarine at 6d. ..	1	9
25 loaves at 4d.	8	4
Meat and substitutes	4	0
Jar of Jam	0	8½
1 qt. Haricot Beans	0	3
1 qt. Butter Beans	0	4
36 lbs. Potatoes at 4 lbs. 2½d. ..	1	10½
Greenstuff and pot-herbs ..	1	0
Insurance	1	0
Gas, a week	2	0
Weekly Ex. for Furniture ..	1	0
Rent	5	6
About 14 lbs. Coal	0	3

You will see this comes to more than her income, and something or other has to be left out each week, unless she gets into debt. The woman is worried out of her life, but she does not want her husband worried.

Yours, etc., C. DRAKE.

Meg Thompson, aged 5, sends 3s., which she has collected for the "poor little babies in East London."

MILK BILL.

Last summer just after war was declared, two Acts of Parliament, the one designed to secure clean uncontaminated milk to England, the other to Scotland, and to prevent the sale of milk that is tuberculous, adulterated, or has been exposed to contamination and dirt, were introduced.

On June 22nd, Mr. Hayes Fisher, the new Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, introduced a Milk and Dairies Acts Postponement Bill.

Some Members pointed out that this was the time of all times when infant lives must be safeguarded, but the Bill was passed quickly through.

Such reverses should renew our determination to press on with the work of safeguarding the nations' babies.

TO THE WISE—A BARGAIN.

CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN.

Said the Slumchild to the Wise—
To the people of place and power
Who govern and guide the hour,
To the people who write and teach,
Ruling our thought and speech,
And all the Captains and Kings
Who command the making of things:
"Give me the good ye know,
That I, the Child, may grow!
Light, for the whole day long,
Food that is pure and strong,
Housing and clothing fair,
Clear water and clean air,
Teaching from day to day,
And room—for a child to play!"
Then the Wise may answer cold:
"These things are not given, but sold.
They shall be yours to-day
If you can pay."
"Pay!" said the Child, "Pay you?
What can I do?
Only in years' slow length
Shall I have strength;
I have not power nor skill,
Wisdom nor wit nor will;
What service weak and wild
Can you ask of a little child?"
But the wise made answer cold:
"Goods must be bought and sold;
You shall have nothing here
Without paying—paying dear!"
And the Rulers turned away.
But the Child cried on them: "Stay!
Wait! I will pay!
"For the foulness where I live,
Filth in return I give.
For the greed that withholds my right,
Greed that shall shake your might.
For the sins I live in and learn,
Plentiful sin I return.
For my lack in home and school,
Ignorance comes to rule.
From where I sicken and die,
Disease in your homes shall lie.
My all uncounted death
Shall choke your children's breath.
Degenerate—crippled—base—
I degrade the human race;
And the people you have made—
These shall make you afraid!
"I ask no more, I take
The terms you make;
And steadily, day by day,
I will pay."

Mme. Pashich, the wife of the Serbian Prime Minister, together with the leading women in Serbia, is organising orphanages for War orphans in Serbia.

Mothers and children should make a point of attending the weekly consultations with nurse and doctor at:—

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway Street, Poplar, Tuesdays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's Street, Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Fife Road, Canning Town,

THE EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES'
AND
LEAGUE OF RIGHTS'

OUTING,

— Sunday, July 18th. —

Steamer leaves
Blackwall Pier, Poplar, 10.30 a.m., to
RICHMOND AND BACK.

Tickets, including Dinner and Tea, **3**s. **6**d. each. Tea, **6**d. extra, optional.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS
For Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

EAST LONDON BRANCHES.

BOW BRANCH meets at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. M. Lansbury.

BROMLEY BRANCH meets at 53 St. Leonard's Street, 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. McCheyne.

POPLAR BRANCH meets at 20 Railway Street, 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Drake.

WEST HAM BRANCH meets at 55 Fife Road, 8 p.m., every Monday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Millo.

EAST HAM BRANCH meets at Essex Hall, Wakefield Street, 8 p.m., every Monday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Thompson.

The
Woman's Dreadnought.

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Vol. II. No. 16.—Sat. July 3rd, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

THE MAILED FIST!

"The men in the Royal Gun Factory are on overtime, but many men do not know where their next job is to come from. In the forges, Royal Gun Factory, there is but little work. The 40-ton hammer is quite idle. This hammer could make forgings for guns up to 7·5. The 30-ton hammer is idle; could make forgings up to 18 lbs. The 2,000-ton press has been worked one shift only during the War on odd jobs. This press has made shell up to 13·5 before the War, and could make up to 15. But not a single shell has been made on it since the War. This press could turn out on two shifts of twelve hours, working seven days a week, about 200 13·5 shells. If the press had been used since the beginning of the War, at times when it was not employed on real war work, it would have turned out quite 5,000. On the 14th of June the men on the 2,000-ton press were told there was no more work for them on the press after that week unless some unexpected orders came in. The new annexe of the field-gun shop, consisting of entirely new machinery, is only half used, and until quite recently many of those working in this shop were on non-productive work. Work on 18-pounder field-guns in this shop has now ceased. The men in the field-gun section reckon they could turn out from 10 to 16 18-pounder guns each week. The total orders since the beginning of the War amount to 198; only from 12 to 14 weeks' work. In the sighting room of the Royal Gun Factory two gangs of six fitters were engaged last Sunday, but did not have a stroke of work to do."—*Quotation from a Woolwich paper cited in the debate on the Munitions' Bill.*

Large numbers of women have placed their names on the books of the Labour Exchanges and those of the Special Register for War Service. But a small proportion of them have been called upon for work.

Now there is to be a new set of registers, officials and expenses, the Government has introduced a National Registration Bill, to secure a census of every man and woman for the purposes of War Service.

All persons from 15 to 65 years of age are to be called upon to fill up forms stating: 1.—Name and address. 2.—Age and occupation. 3.—Whether they are willing to volunteer for any special form of labour for which they are specially suited, other than that which they are doing.

We are told that penalties are to be imposed on those who refuses to register, and though, *for the present*, no one is to be forced to offer himself, or herself, for war work, those who give a promise of service are to be forced to keep it.

We are told that if the voluntary system does not produce the labour that is necessary, compulsion will be introduced.

We are of opinion that the thing most needed is *capacity in the Government* to utilise the labour that is offered by the workers of the nation.

Hitherto this capacity has not been shown—thousands of workers have been forced to stand idle, whilst others have been overworked. Because the Government cares more for the contractors' interests than the nation's, the nation's arsenal at Woolwich is not fully used.

In trying to attract the money of the capitalists to its War Loan, the Government has offered over-generous terms, which will saddle a heavy debt upon the nation.

When outlining schemes for attracting the labour of the people, the Government offers, instead of generosity, coercion's mailed fist!

To cover up its own mistakes, the Government has unjustly slandered the workers, who scarcely utter a word of protest. In order to secure that the workers shall not take advantage of any scarcity of labour to improve their own position, the Government now embodies the slanders in a coercive Act of Parliament.

We refer to the Munitions Bill. Let us examine its provisions—

One of the main purposes of the Bill is to abolish strikes and lock-outs. It establishes compulsory arbitration by the Board of Trade or an arbitrator appointed by the Board, by the Committee on Production, or by a Court of Arbitration consisting of an equal number of representatives of employers and workers, and a chairman appointed by the Board of Trade.

Labour can never get absolute justice under such arrangements for the Board of Trade representatives, though they may strive to be impartial, are almost invariably persons biassed by their upbringing and traditions towards the side of the employer.

Workers who strike and employers who lock their men out, and both employers and employed who may fail to comply with the decisions of the arbiters, are liable to a fine not exceeding £5.

The penalty appears to be the same in both cases, but the employer may be separately fined for every man locked out.

This compulsory arbitration is to apply to disputes in regard to all work directly or indirectly connected with the war. It may also be extended by Proclamation, as the Government pleases, to disputes in any other trade.

Part II. gives the Government power to take under its control any munition works.

In the controlled establishments the wages and salaries of the employees may not be changed without the consent of the Minister of Munitions or by arbitration, as in the case of disputes.

Thus, unless the Government wills it, the workers cannot secure an increase in their wages, however greatly the prices of food and fuel, which the Government refuses to control, may increase. If the wages of the workers are continually cut down, they will have no redress. Even if they insist upon arbitration, as they may, in this case, the Board of Trade has the right to appoint a sole arbiter of its own choosing.

In order that the workers may not claim that they are being treated unjustly, the profits of the employers are to be limited to their average profits for two years before the war, plus 20 per cent. But employers have been promised that this rule shall not be too strictly adhered to lest they may suffer hardship.

Sir John Simon tells us that he has secured an independent committee to deal with this matter. If this committee is genuinely impartial, it will be the first of its kind that the Government has ever set up.

But we want to know on what basis the profits are to be calculated where workers' wages are concerned, employers of labour and the Government are called to counteract the views of labour; surely then where contractors' profits are to be fixed, working class taxpayers and the Government should counterbalance them.

But in any case we do not see why 20 per cent. *extra* profit should be allowed in war time! The workers who have secured war bonuses are not making extra profits, for the cost of living has risen more rapidly than their earnings.

All trade union rules and trade customs, which the employers or the Government may imagine will tend to restrict production or employment, shall be suspended, and if any person fails to comply with this order, or incites or encourages another to do so, will be liable to a fine of £3.

The Minister of Munitions may make rules for the general ordering of the work, and with these the employees must comply or again render themselves liable to a fine of £3.

Employers must also obey the orders of the Minister of Munitions, but it is stipulated in *their* case that his requirements must be "*reasonable*." Such a promise should be inserted to protect the workers also.

It is stated if the employer fails to comply with any other provision of the Act, he will be liable to pay a fine of £50, but it is not clear to what offences this applies.

The fines of workmen may be deducted from their earnings.

"Munitions' Tribunals" shall be set up for trying workers charged with offences under the Act. The judge will be appointed by the Minister of Munitions, and with him will sit two or more assessors, half chosen by employers, half by employees. If the assessors were to have equal power with the Minister of Munition's representative, which presumabley they will not have, the voices against the worker would be two to one in these Courts.

In the House of Commons debate Mr. Duke suggested that both assessors should be chosen directly by the workers. We would go further and suggest that if any Court for trying workers is set up over them, it should be a Court elected entirely by them from amongst themselves under a system of self-government. Now that self-government is being introduced into prisons and reformatories, it may surely be ventured upon in such a case as this. Munition Tribunals will have the power to punish workers for any offences alleged within the factory, for absence or for coming late in the mornings. They will have the power to prevent workers from transferring to another controlled factory, where wages or conditions may be less unsatisfactory, for no employer can engage a munition worker who does not possess a certificate from the Munitions' Tribunal, or until after the worker has been unemployed for six weeks.

There is no indication that the offences of employers are to come before the Munitions' Tribunal, as such cases as that of Greenwood and Batley might usefully do.

We believe that the great power over the workers which is given to the Munitions' Tribunals could only be exercised with any semblance of safety on a basis of self-government.

As to the wages question, semi-skilled men are promised in Schedule II. the same pay that skilled men got before the war, but women are only promised equal pay for equal work with men when employed on *piece-work rates*. Therefore, the old scandal of employing women at miserably sweated wages (provided, of course, they are paid by the hour, day or week) will continue as before.

This Munitions' Bill establishes compulsion for the worker, but does not guarantee efficient methods of production. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

KILLED BY OVERWORK.

On Friday, June 4th, an inquest was held into the death of W. R. Newland, a fitter employed at Messrs. Brotherhood's Munition Works, near Peterborough: he died suddenly whilst at work. Mr. Newland was 57 years of age, and had complained of pain in his side during the past weeks in which he had been working long hours of over time, having been paid for 109 hours the week before his death: this, of course, included double time on Sunday. He had many times worked from 6 o'clock in the morning till the evening of the next day. At 8 o'clock in the morning he fell dead at his machine. It was stated at the inquest that he had died of heart disease.

A correspondent tells us of another sad case. A short time before, another employee in the same factory died from overwork. He was a married man, the father of five children. Before going to work on March 17th, he asked his little boy, aged 14, to meet him at the top of the street at night, and to bring a truck with him. The boy met his father between 7.30 and 8, and the father got into the truck and the boy wheeled him home. As he staggered into the house the man said to his wife: "I am dead-beat." The next day he could not get up and was too weak even to wash himself, and on Saturday, March 20th, he died. The little son is now working at Brotherhood's from 6 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. each day, and his mother says that it grieves her to see him falling asleep over his evening meal.

Such cases show the injustice of the outcry against the munition workers, which has been engineered to cover up the lack of foresight of those in authority. Nobody should be unduly blamed for not knowing in advance what to do, but no one has a right to blame others for his own shortcomings.

Very clearly these fatal cases of overstrain show us the necessity for conserving the strength of working people on whom the foundations of the nation rest, and the danger of forcing them to labour without the means to protect themselves from exploitation.

At a meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen, Mr. Jackson said: "I have just heard of the case of a woman employed at a certain London railway station who is paid 4s. less per week than the man whose place she has taken. She is a soldier's wife, aged 24. She has to be on duty at 4.45 a.m., and work on a shift of ten hours, with twenty minutes off for breakfast and half an hour for dinner. And she is simply one of hundreds of women whose labour is underpaid by 'patriotic' employers. When women are fully established as members of the union such cases, we hope, will not be possible."

The management Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions has decided to advise the General Council to invest £20,000 in the War Loan. Trade Union members should carefully consider what proportion of their funds it is wise to tie up in a 30 years War Loan, in view of the fact that the Unions will have an unprecedented struggle to re-establish necessary labour safeguards after the War, and in view of the period of unemployment and industrial depression that will surely follow after the War.

WHY NOT VOTES FOR WOMEN?

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on June 23rd, the Prime Minister announced that the Government would make a statement on the subject of votes for soldiers & sailors—what about votes for women?

In our last week's report of the E.L.F.S. General Meeting, held on Monday evening, June 21st, at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, we omitted to state that a resolution was carried without dissent, affirming that it is not a part of our policy to interrupt the meetings of other suffrage organisations, even though the views of such organisations may differ from our own.

TO SOLDIERS' RELATIVES.

We have been asked to issue the following, which has been issued by the War Office:—

XXII.—Time Limit for Applications for Separation Allowance for Soldiers' Dependants.—1. For the future, to secure consideration of applications for separation allowance for their dependants, soldiers must make application to their commanding officer (on Army Form O 1838) within one calendar month from the date of their enlistment.

2. In cases in which a soldier dies before the above period has elapsed and no application has been made by him, claims can only be considered when it is shown that the soldier was prevented by circumstances beyond his own control from making the application, and if the dependant applies within a month after the date of the soldier's enlistment.

3. In the case of soldiers serving on or before the date of this Order, claims will be considered if an application has been received not later than 30th June, 1915—

(a) by the commanding officer from the soldier (on Army Form O 1838) if the soldier is serving at home.

(b) by the paymaster (or secretary, Territorial Force Association) from the dependant (on Army Form O 1839A) if the soldier is serving abroad. In these cases decision on the claim will be deferred until reference has been made to the soldier.)

4. In cases in which the soldier has died before the date of this Order application must be made not later than 30th June, 1915.

5. Commanding officers will take steps to ensure that the contents of this Order are carefully explained to all non-commissioned officers and men under their command and that newly-enlisted men are informed, as soon as possible after joining, of the procedure necessary in order to obtain separation allowance for their dependants.

In the House of Commons on June 24th, several members of Parliament protested against this order on the ground that where men do not get to hear the order, or if they fail to understand it and realise the necessity for promptitude, the wives, mothers and other dependent relatives will be made to suffer both grievously and unjustly.

Mr. Wing also asked that dependants should receive their allowances from the day the soldiers made their allotments, not from the date on which the soldiers filled up Army Form 1,838, which in many cases was several weeks later. Mr. Wing pointed out that neither the soldiers nor their relatives knew that Army Form 1,838 had to be signed, because the literature published by the Government for their instruction, did not tell them this.

Mr. Forster on behalf of the War Office, refused to do anything in this matter and took refuge in referring the questioner to an answer given by Mr. Harold Baker on May 19th to the effect that those who had not been informed of the rule in the past must suffer, but that in future the rule should be made known.

On June 22nd, Mr. Tennant stated, on behalf of the War Office, that boys may not enter the Army under 19 years of age, and that if a boy who has enlisted is under 17, his parents have a right to claim his discharge.

In the House of Commons, on June 24th, Mr. Snowden drew attention to the fact that the American Du Pont Powder Trust, which is executing Government contracts, has close business relationships with the German United Rheinisch Westphalian Gunpowder Mills, and that the Du Pont Company undertakes to give the German Company full detailed particulars of any contracts which it accepts, including the quantity, price, time of delivery, and all requirements that the powder has to fulfil.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

PEACEFUL PICKETING.

Women came out on strike from Manifolia, Ltd., West Bromwich. Miss Edith Scott, organiser of the Paper Workers' Union, was fined £10, or a month's imprisonment with hard labour, for picketing. Mr. W. Spackman, an organiser of the same Union, was fined four sums of 50s., or a month's hard labour, sentences to run concurrently, and £20 or two months' imprisonment on a similar charge, and Mr. W. East was fined £5 or 21 days.

THE MEAT TRUST.

In the House of Commons, on June 22nd, Mr. Thorne asked whether the Board of Trade would open an office of its own for disposing of the meat which has been commandeered for it in Australia and New Zealand?

Mr. Runciman refused.

Mr. Thorne then suggested that the Advisory Committee had drawn up their report for selling this meat without regard to the needs of the nation, and with the sole object of benefitting certain firms, amongst which he named H. S. Fitter and Sons, Thomas Borthwick and Sons, and the Colonial Consignment Company, to the exclusion of others.

Mr. Thorne further stated that for some time, previous to May 13th, all the meat stores of London were filled to overflowing, and since then meat had gone up in price.

On June 23rd, Mr. Will Thorne drew attention to the fact that whilst the New Zealand farmers are forced by the New Zealand Government to sell meat for Great Britain at reasonable prices, yet those who buy New Zealand meat in this country are charged unreasonable prices.

Mr. Thorne stated that as a result of this, working class consumers believe that the members of the Advisory Committee appointed by the Board of Trade are agents of the monopolists and working in their interests. He asked that a committee consisting of one representative of the Co-operative Wholesale Society one Trade Unionist representing the food committee of the Labour Party, and one retail butcher representing the National Federation of Meat Traders' Associations, be appointed to report as to the best manner of dealing with the meat bought by this Government, which is not used for the troops.

Captain Pretyman replied that: "Representatives of the National Meat Traders' Associations have already been consulted as to the manner of placing on the market the meat not required for military purposes" and that the President of the Board of Trade "is not prepared to appoint a further committee of the character suggested."

This is exactly what we complain of—only the people who sell meat are consulted as to what the selling price of meat shall be, and how it shall be sold!

Indeed we need not wonder under the circumstances that the price of meat goes up!

Mr. Thorne's suggestion, but for the fact that he does not mention the working woman, is the one that we have been making in regard to the whole food supply ever since war started, and which we laid before the Board of Trade at our deputation on September 2nd, 1914.

We wonder that Mr. Thorne did not substitute the Woman's Co-operative Guild for the Co-operative Wholesale Society which represents *sellers* as well as *consumers*.

We insist that it is necessary that any committee controlling the food question should give a representation of at least one-third to working women.

There are a number of women's organisations in addition to the Women's Co-operative Guild, which should be consulted.

The Committee on the Home Production of Food when told of the wastage resulting from the premature harvesting of young potatoes replied: "That the question of the potato supply does not fall within the scope of the Committee's inquiry." Are not potatoes food? We should like to know.

When introducing the "Maintainance of Live Stock Bill" on June 22nd, Mr. Acland said that one Manchester dealer had stated that at least 5,000 young pigs had died with the sows he had killed this year, and that out of 40 cows killed by one butcher, 31 had been in calf.

Mr. Acland stated that the Board had that day issued an order prohibiting such slaughter, under the Slaughter of Animals Act, passed on August 31st, last year. In view of the above statements, this action seems very tardy, especially as the necessary Act was passed nearly a year ago.

WOMEN MUNITION MAKERS.

In the House of Commons, on June 22nd, Mr. O'Grady asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department "whether he has received from the Leeds Trades and Labour Council a protest against the action of employers in ammunition factories keeping women and girls working 70 to 80 hours per week; whether in such protest mention is made of the action of Deputy-Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. Horace Marshall, refusing to convict in the case brought against Messrs. Greenwood and Batley, Ltd., engineers, who admitted having contravened the Factory and Workshops Act by having, in two cases, kept girls working longer hours than were legally permissible; in one case a girl under 18 years of age, working from 6 a.m. on a Friday till 7 a.m. on a Saturday, when she met with an accident; in the other case allowing a woman to work from 6 a.m. on a Friday till 11 a.m. on a Saturday; whether, in view of the danger arising from such long hours of continuous labour, instructions will be issued that where, and if, it is necessary that day and night work shall continue, the time worked shall be in two periods of twelve hours, inclusive of meal hours?"

The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Brace): "My right hon. friend has received from the Leeds Trades Council a resolution referring to the case of Messrs. Greenwood and Batley. The circumstances of that case have already been dealt with in previous answers in this House. The hours worked by this firm were such as to be injurious, alike to the health of the women, and to the output of the necessary supplies; but these hours have been stopped, and I have no reason to think that such excessive hours have been worked by other employers in munition factories. I may add, with reference to the last part of the question, that where employment of women and girls on emergency work in night and day shifts is authorised by the Home Office, it is the practice to divide the time into two periods of twelve hours or three of eight hours, subject to any small adjustments that may be desired by the workers or required by the nature of the work.

Mr. O'Grady: Will that be issued as a general instruction in the case of the employment of girls who are engaged on double terms?

Mr. Brace: Yes, a regulation is laid down by the Home Office where there is any departure from the ordinary Factory Acts."

We are glad to learn that the Home Office is now determined that women shall not work more than twelve hours at a stretch. We wish that the Home Office would apply this regulation to men as well as to women, as it is wasteful of energy to keep either sex at hard manual work for a longer period day after day.

Moreover, we insist that twelve hours is too long, for careful statistical experiments have proved that a seven and a-half day produces a greater output than a ten-hour day—an eight-hour day is long enough.

The headmistress and two assistant mistresses of Bromley (Kent) County School for girls have been dismissed. As a result 200 of the pupils have gone on strike.

S.S.F.A. IMPUDENCE!

Threats to Soldier's Wife.

A letter from the Hon. Sec. of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, Bromley, reads as follows:—

Mrs. B.,—We hear from the headmistress of ——— School that your daughter, A. ———, has been found in a very dirty condition by the nurse at school. Also that you made a very unpleasant scene at school when you were asked to have A. ——— sent to the cleansing station. If we do not shortly hear from the head-mistress that A. ——— is in a thoroughly clean state, we shall write to the War Office telling them that you are neglecting your children by keeping your daughter, A. ———, in a most dirty condition.

This will affect your separation allowance, no doubt, so you had better take immediate steps to attend to the matter.—Yours faithfully,

M. O'CLAY,

For MISS HALL, *Hon. Sec.*

The woman to whom this letter is sent is the mother of eight children, under 15 years. Three of them are too young to go to school, and she is expecting another in August.

When she got a post-card to say that her child must go to the cleansing station she told the child not to go.

Since she received the above letter from the S.S.F.A., the woman Sanitary Inspector has called on her, and after an investigation has told her that she has no fault to find with the condition of the children's clothes or bedding; because the mothers say that when the children's clothes have been baked at the cleansing station they often drop to pieces, and the children's hair is cut away. Also, because it is regarded as a disgrace to be sent to the cleansing station, and the children are ashamed of it.

It is true that the little girl had some nits on her hair, as many others have had; but she was otherwise clean.

But shall a woman's separation allowance be taken from her for such a cause as this?

Emphatically, we say no!

PRINCE OF WALES'S FUND.

Mr. Walter Long the New President of the Local Government Board, who is also chairman of the Committee of the Prince of Wales's fund, referred to the fund in his statement on Supply in the House of Commons on June 24th. He said, "that the Committee took the view that they ought to be very careful to avoid spending public money, whether it comes out of the Exchequer, or whether it comes from charitable sources." He also said: "We ought to be careful that funds of this character were not used under the cover of alleviating distress alone."

For what then was the Prince of Wales's fund subscribed?

Had it been used for providing productive work for those who were thrown out of employment, the fund would have been better spent than in making small mean doles to the distressed, and would have proved of immense benefit to the country. But the committee refused to allow it to be put to productive use.

In the debate which followed, Sir George Toulmin drew attention to the fact that some Boards of Guardians pay no more than 3s. 6d. a week for boarded out children. He urged the appointment of women inspectors of boarded-out children. He said that the men relieving officers, to whom this work is usually given, have a tendency to look rather for the discovery of cases of imposition on the Guardians, than towards the welfare of the child as a woman would.

Women in Glasgow are employed as stair lamplighters. They carry the usual short ladders, and do the same work as men. They begin work at the men's minimum wage.

Mr. Joynson-Hicks complained that a certain Mrs. Close, a cousin of Lord Roberts, who had gone to Scotland Yard to offer help in tracing spies, had been taken to the Westminster Workhouse, and stripped and bathed, and kept three days in an observation ward with a number of lunatics.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Good meetings on Tuesday at the Women's Hall, and on Wednesday at Ford Road. Members please support speakers at Ford Road on Wednesdays, at Salmon Lane on Tuesdays, and in the parks on Sunday afternoons. Thanks to members and friends for sale of *Dreadnought* in the West End, at local meetings, and at the stall. Full particulars about Annual Outing are given on another page. Will those who intend to take part secure their tickets as soon as possible at 400 Old Ford Road? Will members do their utmost to get friends (men and women) to join the merry party on July 18th.? Remember club night on Fridays 8—10 p.m.

Good meeting in Victoria Park on Sunday in spite of the rain. Will members please remember that Sunday evening meetings begin at 8 prompt?

Dreadnought sales, week ending June 26th—507. Mrs. Crabb 106, Miss O'Brien 178, Mrs. Farrall 40, Stall 74, Shop 50, other sales 20.

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
MRS. MCCHEYNE & MRS. MANTLE,
53 St. Leonard Street.

The meeting on Thursday last was not so crowded as we should like. How is it so few turn up from Donald and Devas Streets? We made so many members from these streets just before Christmas, and we should like to know what has become of them. There are others, too, who seem to have forgotten that we are still at St. Leonard Street.

All enjoyed Miss Pankhurst's address, and hope it will not be long before she comes again.

The Summer Outing tickets are now on sale at the shop, so will members and friends send along quickly for them, as we have only a limited number? Price including dinner 3s. 6d., tea optional 6d.

Dreadnoughts sold—42.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

Last Tuesday afternoon Mrs. Walshe gave an interesting address. Good meeting on Thursday evening. The speakers were Mrs. Cyon and Miss Bennett, whom we are glad to welcome as a speaker.

Mrs. Page collected 1s. 7½d. in Victoria Park.

Tickets for the river trip may be had on application at the office. We hope that every Hackney member will come. Tickets 3s. 6d. each without tea, 4s. including tea.

We hope that the work of the *Dreadnought* Committee will soon be seen by a great increase in our sales.

Papers sold 54. Distributed 50.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

Hon. Secretary: Miss BALCHIN,
39 Radnor Street, Peckham.

Our best thanks are due to Miss M. Thompson for the splendid speech she gave on Wednesday evening. Our weekly meetings at Kempshead Road Hall will now be discontinued for a couple of months, but a members' meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 21st. Will all members make an effort to attend this? Fine crowd at Oakley Place on Thursday evening, when Miss Sennett and Miss Phillips were the speakers. *Dreadnoughts* sold out this week!

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT.
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

A public meeting will be held in the Highbury Hall, Highbury Place, N., on Tuesday, July 13th, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Rev. C. Isherwood, Mr. Sydney Franklin. Chair: Mr. H. G. Everett. Tickets may be bought or had on sale or return from the above address or from the International Suffrage Shop—Prices 6d. and 3d. All members and sympathisers are asked to make the meeting a great success.

The South Wales Coalowners' Association has issued a balance sheet, which Messrs. J. C. Harte & Son, Chartered Accountants of Leeds, have certified as correct. This balance sheet states that returns were received from 79 coalowners, with an annual output of 33,983,829 tons, and employing 121,722 men.

The total profit for the year, after the payment of interest on debentures or other loans and preference shares, was £1,712,047, which works out at 1s. '09d. per ton.

Anything can be proved by statistics! We should like to know how the 79 firms were chosen, and what collieries were left out? A one-sided report is useless. In any case a profit of £1,712,047, after meeting all charges, seems more than sufficient. Moreover, we have always understood that money paid to shareholders and interest on money invested should be considered as profit. This report is a monstrous sham, compiled with the object of continuing to fleece the public.

Joint Social Committee appeals for gifts of Cakes, Sweets, Fruit. Send to 400 Old Ford Road.

STILL "CONSIDERING."

In the House of Commons on June 22nd, Mr. F. W. Jowett called attention to the fact that Post Office cleaners, many of whom are married men with families, are paid 22s. and 24s. a week, and asked that, in view of the high cost of living, these wages should be raised.

Mr. Herbert Samuel said he was "considering" the matter.

In the House of Commons on June 22nd, Mr. Lynch asked the Prime Minister how much the salary of the present Lord Chancellor and the pensions of his predecessors are costing the country.

The Prime Minister said £25,000 a year.

Mr. Lynch asked the Prime Minister whether he had "noticed" that of late this Lord Chancellorship has been dealt with, less as a great judicial office than a caravanserai for retiring politicians?"

Mr. Asquith indignantly answered "No, sir!"

Sir A. Markham asked that where a Member of Parliament had a private income of more than £400 a year his salary of £400 a year as a Member of Parliament should be discontinued.

Mr. Asquith said that he would consider the suggestion.

In the House of Commons on June 22rd, the Under Secretary at the Home Office, again refused to increase the Old Age Pension, and stated that "administrative arrangements have been made whereby temporary increases in the means of Old Age pensioners in certain circumstances are not allowed to interfere with the due receipt of their pensions."

We suppose that this means that some of the Old Age pensioners are to receive help from the Prince of Wales's fund, though it may possibly be from the Poor Law, one of the Members asked that a copy of the regulations might be laid on the table of the House, but there was no answer.

Every Old Age pensioner who is living in semi-starvation should at once demand an addition to his or her income, without loss of pension, for what is just in one case is just in all.

If you are an Old Age pensioner apply for an increase to the local Old Age Pensions committee, Prince of Wales's fund, and Board of Guardians.

EQUAL PAY?

Mr. Tom Mackley writing in the *Daily News* in a reply to Mr. Compton, a farmer, who offered 36s. per week to 100 men who could drive pair-horse pole waggons, says: "May I ask Mr. Crompton one pertinent question? If 100 women apply, each capable of passing his own test, is he prepared to pay them 36s. a week? If not, why not?" We should like to second this inquiry.

Women employed as conductors on the Southend 'buses are only paid 14s. a week.

Southend deserves to be boycotted by holiday makers!

SWEATING BY ARMY CONTRACTORS.

In the House of Commons, on June 23rd, Mr. J. R. Clynes stated that Messrs. Hepbum, Gale and Ross, leather manufacturers of Bermondsey, Army contractors, pay their women workers lower rates than those generally obtaining in the district, and that women making haversacks and packs can only make about 3d. in an hour and a-half, and have to buy their own thread, needles and wax. Mr. Clynes asked that the Fair-Wages Clause should be applied in respect of this firm.

Mr. Forster said he would make inquiries.

In the House of Commons, on June 22nd, Mr. Tyson Williams complained of Sir John Jackson's methods of sub-contracting in regard to the huts for soldiers at Heytesbury Camp, Herts.

Sir Arthur Markham said that the huts erected on Salisbury Plain already need "relining all over and are simply one mass of holes from top to bottom."

Mr. Forster indignantly answered: "That does not correspond at all to the facts."

Sir A. Markham replied: "I saw them last Sunday."

"FIGHT ON."

EDITH R. MANSELL-MOULLIN.

Two years ago! It does not take long to write or to say, and yet no pen, however facile, could describe one-thousandth part of the horror, anguish, and unspeakable suffering which has come upon us since that day two years ago when Emily Wilding Davison voluntarily sacrificed her life because of her deep love for humanity.

In this year of stress and agony, when we seem only to be able to live from minute to minute, and when our sense of proportion runs the risk of being paralysed, it is good for us to pause awhile and to think what our gallant soldier would say to us, for "she being dead yet speaketh," and who shall dare say that her sacrifice was in vain, while her unselfish life and heroic death are just the inspiration and example we all need at this moment.

Let us go back in thought to that scene on Epsom Downs two years ago, where thousands were assembled whose sole idea was pleasure and excitement and luxury.

In that vast crowd stood a woman with a great Ideal—she believed in the sisterhood of Women, and had used her exceptional talents for years past in writing and speaking and working for the upliftment of the sweated mother, the abolition of the White Slave Traffic, and the cessation of the slaughter of the innocents.

She stood there calm, alert, watchful, she, who had already suffered much for the cause, was determined now to make the extreme sacrifice.

In these days when we are thrilled by countless deeds of valour and heroism, we can still bow our heads even more reverently than we did two years ago to the magnitude of her devotion, for it is incomparably harder to die alone in the glowing sun on a field of pleasure for an unpopular cause than to die with others on a field of death. No deed on a battlefield ever more richly deserved the Cross of Valour than the deed of Emily Davison, who, with sublime courage, threw her frail body forward to stop that mad, wild rush of pleasure and vice, with a view to calling attention to those wrongs which were burnt into her soul.

Of course, the verdict of so-called Society was: "Hysterical, senseless, disgraceful"; that was not the time, nor the place, nor the way in which to call attention to supposed wrongs. The world never has a time nor a place in which to listen to what it does not want to hear. The same world is now paying a heavy price for turning a deaf ear, for who shall deny that had those in authority listened *in time*, much of the present sorrow and suffering would have been averted?

And now, after two years, when women are being called upon more than ever to take their part in public work and responsibility, we are still told it is not the time to free them from age-long shackles. The Prime Minister says so, Society says so; but surely we, as Suffragettes, do not listen to these voices. What does our great soldier say? We will listen to her.

Clear and unmistakable comes her dying message—"Fight on." She tells us never for one moment to lay aside the cause for which she gladly laid down her life. We have only to visualise what we stand for, and our work must go on whether it is a time of peace or a time of war. Has the sweating of women ceased because the country is at war? Has "The Song of the Shirt" become a dead letter when women to-day are making soldiers' shirts for 2s. 8d. a dozen? One of these women said to me: "I work 14 hours a day at my machine, and when night comes I cannot tell whether it is the machine or myself which I put to bed." Are there no young girls still being driven to sell their bodies for bread? And what about the statistics of infant mortality which are higher than ever since the War?

SUNDAY MEETINGS, JULY 4th.

HYDE PARK,

3 p.m.
Miss FRASER SMITH,
Mrs. DRAKE.

WOMEN'S HALL

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
8 p.m.
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Miss ELSA MYERS,
Mrs. SCHLETTE. *Music.*

R.S.P.U. & E.L.F.S. Joint Social

In aid of the Babies' Milk,
SATURDAY, JULY 10, 8 p.m.

Music. Dancing. Competitions.

Tickets 3d. Refreshments at popular prices.

The great World-Mother knows that these and many other evils will go on, and increase, so long as men will not allow Her Voice to be heard in the government of all nations.

There is a story told of a little, motherless girl who, when asked what her father was, replied: "My father's a Christian, but he doesn't work at it!" Let all who profess and call themselves Suffragettes take heed, lest out of the mouth of some babe they stand accused of "not working at it."

These are difficult days, but Freedom can never be gained without sacrifice, and to be worthy of Freedom, our heroine tells us, we must never cease to "Fight on; and God will give the Victory!"

In the House of Commons, on June 23rd, Mr. W. C. Anderson pointed out that spelter used in making cartridges has gone up from £21 a ton last July to £115 a ton at the present time—an increase of over 500 per cent. Also that in the same period best finished iron has gone up in Staffordshire from £8 10s. to £12 12s. 6d. per ton.

The Government could prevent such increases of price if it would. Remember, we shall all have to pay for these extra War profits when the War taxes begin to be put on!

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Collection at Church Socialist League 2.10.7, per Miss Chappelow (collected) 1.15.0, Collections (Poplar) 4.8½, Tom Norris, Esq. (monthly) 5.0, Collections (Walthamstow) 6.0½, Collection (Women's Hall) 2.8½, Mrs. N. E. Walshe 2.6, Collections (Hackney) 2.6, Sandy Kirkwood, Esq. 2.0, Miss M. Balchin 1.0, Collection (Victoria Park) 0.7½, Miss Kemp 0.4½.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.—Mrs. Ayrton 10.0.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Miss Margaret Hood 5.0.0, Mrs. Wyman 2.2.0, Mrs. Douglas Hamilton 2.0.0, Tool-room, etc. (London Small Arms) 1.16.3½, Dr. O'Brien 1.1.0, Mrs. Brewer 1.1.0, Roger de Wesselow, Esq. 1.0.0, Mrs. Colebrook 1.0.0, Miss Kemp 1.0.0, Miss Mason 1.0.0, Mrs. Drake (collected at Cubitt Town) 12.2, Mrs. Garner (collected) 13.0, Mrs. Crabb (collected) 11.5, Mrs. Heygate 10.0, per Miss Mary Chesley 10.0, Miss T. Bonwick (monthly) 10.0, Mrs. Drake (collected) 10.0, Miss Getsam 10.0, Miss I. V. Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Anon. (Stroud Green, 10.0 weekly) 1.0.0, Miss B. Davies 10.0, Mrs. Bird (collected) 7.3, Mrs. Young 6.0, A Member (collected) 5.8½, Ruby Crabb (collected) 5.6, Miss Hicks 5.0, Miss J. M. Morgan 5.0, Miss Page (collected) 5.0, Mr. Neal (collected L. S. Arms' Factory) 4.11, Mrs. Mackenzie Kennedy 4.3, Collected in Restaurant Box 3.3½, Miss Meg Thompson 3.0, West Adams 3.0, Lizzie Bertram (collected) 2.9, Anon. 2.6, Miss M. Burgess 2.6, Miss Fox 2.0, Mrs. Usherwood 1.9½, Miss Zangwill 1.0, Mrs. Stevens 1.0, From a Belgian 0.7½, Per Miss C. Fussell (G. S. P. 2.0, M. S. D. 2.0, E. B. 0.6, D. G. P. 0.6, E. B. 1.6, H. E. P. 1.0) 7.6, T. W. Buckley, Esq. 10.0 (refunded by railway for loss of rabbits sent to the Restaurant).

GIFTS OF CLOTHING.—O. W. S. (Isle of Dogs), Mrs. R. Ferris, Miss Batson, Miss R. Hancock, Anon, Mrs. Haverson, Miss Burgess, Mrs. Pattison, Miss Caird (flowers), Miss L. Smith, Mrs. Swan, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. E. J. Warrick, Miss A. M. Burton (leather cuttings), Miss Ada Tench.

DEAR MISS PANKHURST,—Here is 6s. 6d. for the babies; it is the contents of our money-box; we filled it by putting a penny or halfpenny in it for our misdeeds.

We are starting another, but hope it will not fill so quickly this time. But, of course, we will try to collect something for the dear babies in another way.

With very best wishes from
AVRIL POTT AND PRUNELLA.

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